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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

The Education of the Negro Prior to 1861: A History of the Education of the Colored People of the United States from the Beginning of Slavery to the Civil War. By Carter Godwin Woodson, Ph. D. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1915. Pp. v, 454. \$2.00.)

This book is an important contribution to the history of the negro race in America. Beginning with the efforts of benevolent clergymen to instruct the first comers from Africa in the rudiments of learning in order to prepare them for an understanding of the Christian religion, the author traces throughout the slavery era the slow and uncertain progress of the negro in the pursuit of the white man's learning. Naturally, progress was uneven. The author shows how religious conviction, political philosophy, social prejudice, the development of the plantation system, abolitionist ardor and the newer slave code in turn had to do not only with the quantity of instruction that was allowed the negro but also with the character of it. It is not necessary to follow his story here. Its trend is sufficiently indicated in certain of the chapter headings: "Religion with Letters," "Educating the Urban Negro," "The Reaction," "Religion without Letters," "Learning in Spite of Opposition," "Educating Negroes Transplanted to Free Soil," "Higher Education," "Vocational Training," "Education at Public Expense." There is a long appendix of documents which illustrates various phases of negro-education propaganda. The book is supplied with an extensive bibliography and a fair index.

The author has evidently been at pains to tell his story accurately. He has searched widely and collected an abundance of material. Although his style can not be termed eloquent or polished, in the main it is clear and readable. Of a doctor of philosophy of one of America's greatest institutions of learning, these things were to be expected. Of a negro, it is hardly to be expected, perhaps, that he should write in scientific detachment, without racial bias.

Of the failure to pass this test of historical scholarship the

pages of the book offer ample testimony. Ignoring the condition of the negro in the African forest, the writer would have it that by lack of instruction the slaves were "reduced . . . to the plane of beasts" and thereby "developed bad traits which since their emancipation have been removed only with great difficulty" (p. 12). Masters who refused to educate their negroes were "malevolent" (p. 64) and "merciless aristocrats" (p. 68); the project of colonization was but a "subterfuge" to prevent education; and John Wesley, who could have known but little of the race, is quoted with approval to the effect that the African is not stupid in his own country and that with equal opportunity he is "not only not inferior to the better inhabitants of Europe, but superior to some of them." The separation of whites and blacks in the public schools is denounced and it is boldly asserted that "it was the liberated Negroes themselves who, during the Reconstruction, gave the Southern States their first effective system of free public schools." It is unnecessary to give more examples of this sort, but plenty are available. They illustrate the chief fault of the book.

CHAS. W. RAMSDELL.

The History of Brenham and Washington County. By Mrs. R. E. Pennington. Houston, 1915. 123 p. This small volume is the product of a labor of love. It is not the purpose of the author to present a comprehensive history of either town or county. Nevertheless, she has succeeded in bringing to the attention of the reader the important part the people of this rich and beautiful section have played in the history of Texas. The data are grouped around historical sketches of the towns of Washington and Brenham and biographical sketches of Richard Fox Brenham, the Giddingses, the Shepards and a few others.

The final volume in the Series of Original Narratives of Early American History (Scribners), entitled *Spanish Exploration in the Southwest*, is by Professor Bolton, of the University of California. Pages 281-423 contain narratives of seventeenth century explorations of Texas: the Bosque-Larios expedition of 1675, the

Mendoza-Lopez expedition to the Jumano Indians in 1683-84, and the De León expeditions of 1686-87, 1689, and 1690.

Early Diplomatic Relations between the United States and Mexico (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press. 1916. Pp. xi, 406), by Professor William R. Manning, of the University of Texas, is just from the press. It will be reviewed in a later number.

The Brenham *Banner-Press* on January 27, 1916, issued a Golden Anniversary Edition of fifty-six pages. The editor contributes a brief sketch of John G. Rankin, founder of the *Banner*. Mr. Rankin tells of "Fifty years of newspaper work." Mrs. R. E. Pennington gives an account of Washington on the Brazos, and Thomas H. Shannon of "Historic Independence." Over against Mrs. Hetty M. Curry's account of exasperating "Reconstruction days in Brenham" may be placed Mrs. Mary Hunt Affleck's "Glenblythe: the story of an old Southern home." The paper has many other historical and biographical sketches.

The Cameron *Herald* issued a Christmas edition December 16, 1915, containing a history of the *Herald*, now thirty-eight years old, "History of Cameron and Milam County," "Cameron after the Civil War," "Some interesting history since 1866" by Edward F. English, and "Reminiscences of forty-five years ago."

Doniphan's Expedition; containing an account of the conquest of New Mexico; General Kearney's overland expedition to California; Doniphan's campaign against the Navajos; his unparalleled march upon Chihuahua and Durango; and the operations of General Price at Santa Fé. . . . By John T. Hughes first published in 1847, has been reprinted as Senate Document 608, 63d Congress, 2nd Session.

Number 1 of the *Publications* of the Folk-Lore Society of Texas was recently published. Indian tradition, border ballads,

negro tales, school boys' slang, play-party songs, and wild horse stories are some of the subjects treated of in the papers.

A Pioneer Presbyterian Preacher in Texas: The Rev. Hugh Wilson, D. D., by Edward M. Browder, of Dallas. This small pamphlet contains a biography first printed in the *Texas Presbyterian*, January, 1916.

The Texas History Teachers' Bulletin, IV, No. 2 (February, 1916), contains extracts from the minutes of the ayuntamiento of San Felipe de Austin for March, 1828, which illustrate some features of local government in Texas under Mexican rule. The selection is translated from the original manuscript volumes in the General Land Office and edited by Professor Barker, of the University of Texas.

John Tyler, Tenth President of the United States, is the title of an address delivered by Armistead C. Gordon at the dedication, October 12, 1915, of the monument erected by Congress in Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia, in memory of President Tyler. It is issued in pamphlet form by the committee in charge of the dedicatory exercises, as Senate Document No. 256, 64th Congress, 1st session, and it appears in the *Alumni Bulletin of the University of Virginia* (Third Series), IX, No. 1, Pp. 64-91.

Jefferson Davis and Repudiation in Mississippi, by John Douglass Van Horne (Glyndon, Maryland, privately printed), is a well written review of evidence acquitting Davis of the charge of favoring repudiation of State debts in Mississippi.